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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L M ERICSSON (publ)** [SE/SE]; SE-126 25 Stockholm (SE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **HELLWIG, Karl** [DE/DE]; Hauptstr. 32, 97539 Wonfurt (DE). **ERTEL, Emilian** [DE/DE]; Wettersteinstr. 14, 90471 Nürnberg (DE). **HOFMANN, Rudolf** [DE/DE]; Rebenstrasse 14, 91301 Forchheim (DE).

(74) Agent: **SCHMALZ, Günther**; Ericsson Eurolab Deutschland GmbH, Neumeyerstr. 50, 90411 Nürnberg (DE).

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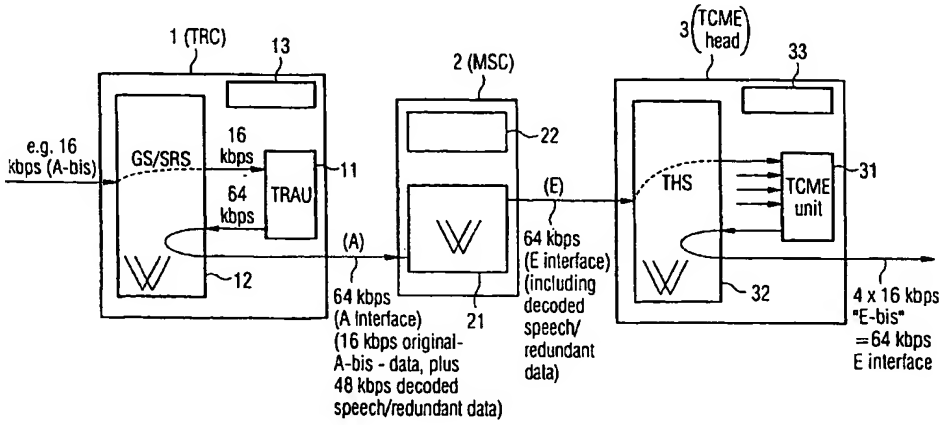
(54) Title: TRANSCODER-FREE OPERATION IN MOBILE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an improved transcoding apparatus (1) for use in a switching network of a telecommunication system, said transcoding apparatus (1) including a) a plurality of transcoding units for source encoding and decoding data, for example speech data, wherein at least one transcoding unit (11) of said plurality is capable of operating in tandem-free operation mode, b) switching means (12) adapted to switch data through said plurality of transcoding units, c) a transcoder controller (13) for controlling said switching means (12) and said plurality of tmascoding units, wherein said transcoder controller (13) is adapted to d) instruct said switching means (12) to insert one of said at least one transcoding unit (11) into a data path associated with a connection between a mobile terminal of said telecommunicaiton system and said switching network, and wherein said transcoder controller (13) is adapted to e) instruct said one of said at least one transcoding unit (11) to operate in tandem-free operation mode, and wherein said transcoder controller (13) is adapted to f) instuct, during said connection, said switching means to eliminate said one of said at least one transcoding unit from said data path.

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